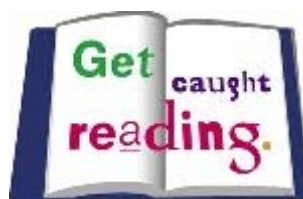


Volume 1; Number 6 May 13, 2005

Published bi-monthly by Read to Me, a service of the Idaho State Library

In this Issue:

- Welcome!
- Meet Terril Catmull
- Library to Library
- Young Adult Corner: Summer Reading at the High School Level
- Book Look
- Upcoming Events in June
- Summer Reading News
- School Zone: 21st Century Community Learning Centers
- Know the Numbers
- A Closer Look at First Book
- Tips & Tools
- News Beyond Idaho



Welcome

We know that reading role models are powerful, and May has some great opportunities to celebrate reading. It is **Get Caught Reading Month** and next week is **Reading is Fun Week**. What better time to start thinking about fun, relaxing reads than when summer is just around the corner? Be sure to read this issue's Young Adult Corner for an article on a summer reading program for high school students.

We'd like to hear from you about what you are reading for the summer. Send (peggy.mcclendon@libraries.idaho.gov) short book recommendations, book reviews

or just a list of favorite books--for either librarians or kids. And make sure the children and youth you work with have an opportunity to catch you reading!



Please note: The State Library has 15 openings for the Summer Institute elementary school track called Building a Strong Foundation to be held at Boise State University on August 1- 5. We are going ahead with the Institute, but would like to get those slots filled by May 27! The Institute is free – there's no charge for the program, materials (including a professional development book), meals, or lodging.

The week-long Institute covers so much information – but we include lots of hands on activities and it's fun too! We have some great presenters lined up and would be happy to share the agenda or talk more about the Institute to any one who is interested. Please contact Peggy McClendon or Stephanie Bailey-White at (208) 334-2150 or 1-800-458-3271 for more information.



We also wanted to mention **the deadline for public libraries to participate in the Library First Book program is May 27**. See the article below for more information!

Meet Terril Catmull, librarian at Minico High School

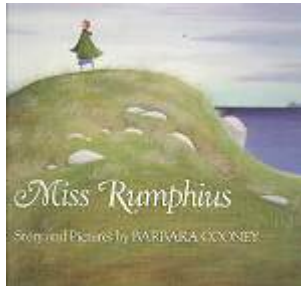
Terril Catmull is the librarian at Minico High School. Her name was drawn at random for the \$25 Amazon gift certificate, selected from those who completed the online e-newsletter survey prior to The Scoop's publication. Thanks to all who have contributed ideas through the survey and through e-mail! Since Terril was the lucky winner, we asked her to answer a few questions.

"I have been at Minico for four year. I have worked in the Minidoka School District for sixteen years. Ten of those years have been in a library. We have a beautiful new library that was part of the addition to Minico High School. There are 1100 students at Minico in the 9th through the 12th grades. I love books and like to match students to books. And, don't even get me started on research. Who doesn't like to research? Helping students find answers to questions and watching them making connections is my motivation for returning each year.

Completing our move to the new library was my biggest challenge. It began with contractors, floor plans, visiting many libraries, and much planning. We moved into the new library, which is in a different building, with much student power. Yes, students actually carried the books from the old library to the new and stacked them in perfect order on the floor. Our new shelves had not arrived and we

had to be out of the old building. Everything worked out just fine, and we are enjoying the spacious new library with a beautiful view of the South Hills."

When asked what she is currently working on, Terrill said it's inventory time. "I have great student aides who are helping me scan all of the books."



"My favorite children's book is *Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Cooney. It's a motivator. I love Alice's desire to set goals and achieve them. Her grandfather's advice is good for all of us. How will you make the world a more beautiful place?"

"I looked on Novelist to see what some of the authors were reading. I picked up the first two *Maisie Dobbs* mysteries by Jacqueline Winspear, suggested by an author, and thoroughly enjoyed them."

"Three words that describe me? Grandma, Grandma, Grandma!"

"And of course, when I'm not working at the library I'm reading to my grandchildren."

Thanks, Terril! And have fun with that gift certificate!



Library to Library

Barbara Barrett, media generalist at Hillside Junior High School in Boise, sent us this update about one of her favorite authors, Anthony Horowitz.

If you haven't discovered Anthony Horowitz books, now is the time! He has been writing children's books for several years, to the delight of young Brits. Now his works have made it across the Atlantic and I, for one, think they are terrific especially for reluctant male readers.

"They could be called formulaic, shallow, with only a titch of character development. Who cares? The pace of the plot, the unlikely events, the bizarre twists and turns are more than enough to keep the reader on the edge of his/her seat or cowering under a pillow."



"There are three series that I have recently sampled. In one, the protagonist is 14-year-old Alex Rider, who has reluctantly agreed to become a Secret Agent for Britain's MI6. He has all the James Bond secret agent toys, except he has no weapons. Thirteen -year-old Nick Diamond stars in another series. Nick has to be the brains behind his older brother's detective agency when he is not in jail for a crime he didn't commit. And then there is 14-year-old Matt Freeman, who also is unjustly accused of a crime and then discovers he has special powers and is being called on to defeat the Old Ones, if they don't get to him first.

"Each of these protagonists is found in two or three or four books with more coming. While it is always more fun to start at the beginning of a series and read straight through, I found that I could pick these up in any order. Once I mentioned them to my students they are seldom on the shelves."

To read more about the author, go to his web site:

www.anthonhorowitz.com/index.html. For more on the Alex Rider series, go to www.anthonhorowitz.com/alexrider/index.html.



Young Adult Corner

Nancy Van Dinter, librarian at Bishop Kelly High School in Boise, developed a summer reading program for her students last year and is sharing her success.

Summer Reading at the High School Level

Instead of our traditional summer reading requirement, one book for each grade, usually chosen by the English department, we tried something entirely new that involved the entire faculty and staff. Instead of written assignments, we decided on book club type discussions. Our ultimate goal was to encourage reading, not for an assignment, but for pure enjoyment. After our first year, no one wants to go back to the old way.

Everyone on the staff is asked to submit the title of a book they think students would enjoy reading and discussing. We get everyone involved, including administrators, counselors and office personnel. As suggestions come in, we check book reviews and availability of the titles. Every student must borrow or purchase his or her own copy of the book.

We put together a special list of young adult titles for the incoming freshmen with suggestions by the librarian, teachers and students. We try to include a wide variety of genres: science fiction, mystery, fantasy, contemporary problems and non-fiction. I go to our feeder grade schools with the counselors in the spring and introduce the program to the eighth graders and show them the books.

When we have a book from everyone, we put together an annotated list for our present students. We add it to our web page and make classroom copies for the English classes. We have a wide range of choices for the students and include non-fiction as well as fiction. We purchase one copy of each book on the list and display them in a hall display case and then in the library. We send copies of the list to local public libraries and book stores.

During National Library Week, the students make their choices in their English classes. The English teachers are enthusiastic for the program, and they do a great job talking it up to their students. The library collects the completed forms and begins organizing the fall activity.

Then comes the fun! When we return in the fall, we choose a day for our book discussions. Students prepare by writing out discussion questions and a favorite passage to bring with them. We have a special schedule that sets aside forty minutes from one day for the activity. The discussion leader meets with the group of students who read his or her book. Some people bring snacks. The idea is to talk about the book and have fun.

We have about 635 students in our school, and the first year we had forty-eight discussion groups. It went amazingly well. There was actually a buzz in the halls afterward as everyone, students and staff alike, talked about books. Here are some of the comments we received from discussion leaders:

“I really was unsure how it was going to go because I had never participated in a book review/discussion. I was pleasantly surprised on how well it went. We had a great discussion...”

“We ran out of time! It was awesome.”

“I had so much fun...”

“I think this is a great idea.”

The student newspaper ran an article with comments later in the year.

“When it comes to the new program it is overwhelmingly better than the old.”

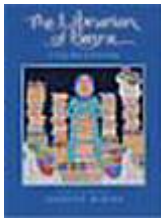
“...it gets a variety of age groups together in one room to talk...”

“...it offers a chance for teachers to get involved with books...”

“...there are nearly 40 books that a student can choose from...”

We are pleased with the program and plan to continue it. The English department was glad to give up the thankless job of selecting one book per class and the complaints that always followed. We have a dedicated committee that meets throughout the year and helps with the goals and planning. And best of all, we have people talking about reading again.

We post our booklists and our goals on our website at www.bk.org.



Book Look

Maxine Riggers, with the Nezperce Friends of the Library, says *The Librarian of Basra* by Jeanette Winter is a winner! "It's a true story from Iraq about a librarian who saves the books from her library before the bombs strike. It's one of those picture books all ages enjoy," Riggers said.

Upcoming Events in June

This section includes listings for upcoming training dates, literacy events, special days to observe, author birthdays, literacy links, and more. If you know of an upcoming event, send an e-mail to stephanie.bailey-white@libraries.idaho.gov.

June is National Audiobook Month. The Audio Publishers Association celebrates June as a month to raise awareness of the audiobook industry. If you are like many readers who also enjoy the occasional audiobook, you might want to learn more about this celebration at: www.audiopub.org.

June 3 – Mighty Casey has Struck Out Anniversary. The famous comic baseball ballad “Casey at the Bat” was printed in the Sunday *San Francisco Examiner* on June 3, 1888. Read the Caldecott Honor Book, *Casey at the Bat*, illustrated by Christopher Bing to celebrate!

June 14 – **Flag Day & Family History Day**. A day to celebrate the folklore, legends and myths that bind us together. Each participant should share at least one good recollection (fact or fiction).

June 19 – **Father's Day and Reading with Dad Day**. What a great time to highlight children's books featuring fathers. See a list of "Reading with Dad" titles at www.minnesotahumanities.org/literacy/dadlist.htm.

June 19 is **Juneteenth**. Celebrated in Texas as the day in 1865 when Union General Granger proclaimed the slaves of Texas free. Juneteenth has become an occasion for commemoration by African Americans in many parts of the US. Find more information at: <http://www.juneteenth.com/welcome.htm>.

June 23-29 – **American Library Association 2005 Annual Conference**. To be held in Chicago, Illinois.

June 25 - **First Book conference at Boise State University**. The conference is free and you can "earn" \$500 for your community in First Book funding. Sponsored by the National First Book program. See www.firstbook.org/conference/idaho.html for more information.

Author Birthdays:

June 2 – Helen Oxenbury. Author of *Helen Oxenbury's ABC of Things*, *Bear Hunt*, *Clap Hands* and more. www.teaching-resource.co.uk/books/oxenbury.htm

June 6 – Peter Spier. Author of *Rain*, *People*, and *Bored - Nothing to Do* and more. <http://coe.west.asu.edu/students/dcorley/authors/Spier.htm>

June 10 – Maurice Sendak. Author of *Where the Wild Things Are* and *In the Night Kitchen*. <http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/sendak.htm>

June 11 – Robert Munsch. Author of *The Paper Bag Princess* and more.

June 12 - Anne Frank (1929-1945). Author of *The Diary of a Young Girl*, depicting life during the Holocaust in Germany. www.annefrank.com

June 15 - Brian Jacques (born in 1939). Author of *Redwall*, *Mossflower*, *Rakkety Tam* and more. www.redwall.org

June 18 – Pat Hutchins. Author of *The Very Worst Monster*, *Titch*, and *Rosie's Walk*. www.titch.net/

June 25 – Eric Carle. Author of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *The Bad-Tempered Ladybird*, *Brown Bear*, *Brown Bear* and more. www.eric-carle.com/

June 26 – Charlotte Zolotow. Author of *Mr Rabbit* and the *Lovely Present*.

June 30 – David McPhail. *Animals A to Z, Pigs Ahoy, Lost* and more.
<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/mcphail.htm>

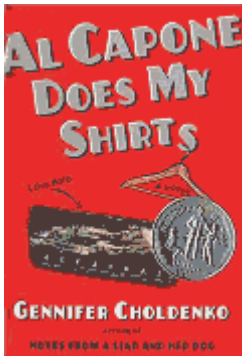


Summer Reading News



The Nezperce Friends of the Library are sponsoring two student summer reading groups. A total of 27 students from Nezperce Junior and Senior High Schools have registered to participate. This is the second year they have sponsored the program in Nezperce.

Each reading group reads two books during the summer. After reading each book, the students meet to discuss the book and enjoy some pizza. It's a fun time for all! The students get the books from the Friends of the Nezperce Library, the Prairie-River Library District, and by requesting them from other libraries.



Al Capone Does my Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko is the first book the junior high students will read and the high school students will read *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini.

Friends Jeanne Wasko and Maxine Riggers lead the groups and they think it's great to see the students reading during the summer. It's especially gratifying to them when they meet up with a student somewhere and he/she relates to them that they read the book and liked it.



School Zone



21st Century Community Learning Centers

About 13% of Idaho's population, or 162,600 children, are aged 5 to 12. A growing number of these children are on their own after school. The 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) funds provide opportunities for academic enrichment along with activities designed to complement the students' regular academic program. Community Learning Centers also offer literacy and related educational development to the families of these students.

In the April 15th issue of *The Scoop*, we profiled the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta sponsored by the Snake River School District, which is a Highlighted Program of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program. Funded by the federal government, this Program is administered by the Idaho State Department of Education.

According to program coordinator Claudia Hasselquist, the third round of 21st CCLC grants has just been awarded. Awards range from \$50,000 to \$160,000. Thirty-three grants will impact nearly 70 Community Learning Centers statewide. Participating students range in age from preschool to middle and junior high. Applications were due the end of January and the cycle begins in July.

The 21st CCLC Program focuses on serving low-income students by providing extended learning opportunities for both students and their families. Individual performance goals are set for each student based on personal Idaho Standard Achievement Tests (ISAT) scores. For younger children in kindergarten and first grade, other methods of measurement have been developed.

Results from the first grant cycle indicate that participating students showed a stronger academic growth than non-participants in the core elements: language arts, mathematics, and reading. During that first year, 2003-2004, there were nine sites with 30 Centers reaching more than 2,000 students who attended at least 50% of the time.

The Program has three goals: (1) to increase individual student academic growth and performance; (2) to provide enrichment activities for students; and (3) to provide education and literacy programs for family members of participants.

An important component of the Program is partnerships between schools and community organizations. According to Hasselquist, "All grantees have to develop community partnerships, especially for sustainability after the grant has ended."

The 21st Century Community Learning Center Program can be an opportunity for both school and public libraries to partner in outreach activities. To find out if there is a 21st CCLC in your area, or if you would like more information on the program, go to the Idaho State Department of Education web site at <http://www.sde.state.id.us/safe/lc/default.asp>.]



Wildlife Express is a newspaper for upper elementary and middle school students published nine times a year (September through May) by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Each issue focuses on the natural history of an Idaho wildlife species and is written in an educational and entertaining fashion.

Classroom subscriptions and an Educator's Guide are available for \$30 per year and include a classroom set of 35 copies mailed to your school each month. Subscriptions of five copies or less are available for \$10. To view the pdf version of each newsletter, visit

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/news/newsletters/wild%5Fexpress/>.

For more information, call or write: Wildlife Express, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25, Boise, Idaho 83707, (208) 287-2874, or visit the web site mentioned above.

Know the Numbers

According to **Idaho Kids Count, 2005**, there is encouraging news, or "cause for applause," in several areas. For example,

- In 2004, students in the 4th, 8th, and 10th grades taking the Idaho Standard Achievement Tests (ISAT) performed significantly higher than the 2003 proficiency goals of 66% in reading and 51% in math.
- The number of Idaho children living below the poverty level has dropped from 22% in 1999 to 14.5% in 2003. The child poverty rate for Idaho is below the national level.
- Child immunization rates in Idaho have increased 8.7% from 2002 to 2003.
- The number of Idaho teens who smoked cigarettes has decreased by 27% in the 10-year period from 1993 to 2003. The number of teens drinking alcohol has decreased by 9% in the same period.

More data on Idaho's kids can be found in the 47-page report, available on the Web at www.idahokidscount.org. Statistics are divided into seven sections: demographic information, child health, child safety, youth behaviors, early care and learning, educational performance, and family economic conditions.



Giving children from low-income families the opportunity to read and own their first new books.

A Closer Look at First Books

First Book is a national nonprofit organization with a single mission: to give children from low-income families the opportunity to read and own their first new books. The primary goal of First Book is to work with existing literacy programs to distribute new books to children who, for economic reasons, have little or no access to books. Since its inception, First Book has provided more than 30 million new books to children in need in hundreds of communities nationwide.

In the years since First Book's founding, educators and policymakers have become acutely aware of the need to develop strong community-based resource programs for children from low-income families, which is precisely the focus of First Book at the local level. The Idaho State Library has partnered with Idaho Public Television to distribute First Book books through public library partnerships since 1997 contributing 53,160 books to approximately 4,430 Idaho children. Public library staff can apply to participate in the Library First Book program for up to three years. Applications are available at www.lili.org/read/readtome/firstbooks.htm.

The 2005-06 application is due on May 27, 2005. Contact Stephanie or Peggy at the State Library (1-800-548-3271) if you have any questions.

Special Initiative Open to Idahoans

First Book has launched a special initiative to put more books into the hands of children throughout Idaho. Through a grant from the Department of Education, funds are available to start and develop First Book Advisory Boards. An Advisory Board is a group of community or campus-based volunteers that raise awareness and funds to provide book grants to local literacy programs serving children in need. First Book will provide all the tools you need to get started in your community, including matching and incentive grants, ongoing volunteer training and networking opportunities, an online resource center, and step-by-step personalized staff guidance. Currently there are eight Advisory Boards in Idaho - if you would like to start or join a Board, please contact us!

Many of you also work with programs and organizations that are eligible to receive books through First Book's Advisory Boards and the First Book National Book Bank. The Book Bank will be coming to Idaho in the fall of 2005. To see if your program is eligible and to register, please visit, www.nationalbookbank.org.

Through the Advisory Board network, First Book provides existing local literacy programs with new books and educational materials to distribute to children who, for economic reasons, have little or no access to books. A Board consists of volunteers from all sectors of the community who join forces to provide new books to children participating in these existing local literacy and mentoring programs. In this way, First Book augments the efforts of local heroes and ensures that books are distributed in a context of learning. Each child in a recipient group receives, on average, one book per month for the duration of the program.

First Book also distributes books through the First Book National Book Bank. The National Book Bank provides a mechanism for First Book's publishing partners to donate large quantities of new books for distribution to programs serving children from low-income families. It hosts several book distributions in cities throughout the country each year, giving local programs and national nonprofit partners the opportunity to receive additional books for the children they serve.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can get involved with First Book or about an upcoming training conference in Boise on June 25, please visit www.firstbook.org/get/idaho.html. Questions? Contact Elizabeth Matthews at ematthews@firstbook.org or 866-393-1222. You can also print the [attached flyer](#) in pdf format.

Tips & Tools

Powerful Libraries Make Powerful Learners Report: The Illinois Study is available at <http://www.islma.org/pdf/ILStudy%20Report.pdf>. The study found that "elementary schools with more flexibly scheduled libraries had 10 percent higher reading and 11 percent higher writing score on the ISAT tests of fifth-graders than schools with less flexibly scheduled libraries. Where high school libraries are more flexibly scheduled, eleventh-graders average more than six percent higher PSAT reading scores and almost five percent higher ACT scores than their counterparts with less flexibly scheduled libraries." The report states that "for schools to benefit as much as possible from strong libraries, access to them needs to be as flexible as possible, enabling teachers and students to work with the librarian and other staff and to use the library as a classroom and a study space as needed."

Special thanks to **Marcia Beckwith, Library Supervisor for the Boise School District**, for sharing this resource with *The Scoop*!

News Beyond Idaho

Libraries Reach Out to Teens

According to a recent report from Chapin Hall Center for Children, about 25% of library patrons these days are teens – even though libraries typically devote fewer resources to them than to any other age group.

The report, *New on the Shelf*, is an assessment of a four-year project of the Wallace Foundation that funded youth development programs in nine library systems serving predominantly low-income communities. The Foundation hoped to find evidence that libraries could help prepare teens for success in school and work while making libraries more responsive to teens and more connected to their communities. [To see the full report, click here.](#) (To see the 173 page pdf, just register on the site for free and download). We'll try to run excerpts of the report in a future YA Corner.

Overall, the reports' authors concluded, libraries do have the potential to be powerful partners in youth development – but that creating and sustaining successful programs is “complicated, time-consuming, and expensive.”

Baltimore was one of the nine grantees. Connect for Kids editor Susan Phillips interviewed Deborah Taylor of Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Library about the library's expanding commitment to youth development. See <http://www.connectforkids.org/node/3008> for the interview.

Disclaimer The Idaho State Library retains sole discretion with regard to the content of this newsletter, and reserves the right to edit, modify or delete content. Advertising will not be accepted. Permission to reproduce information in this newsletter is granted to other nonprofit organizations, so long as credit to the author and source is given, except for items which are reprinted from other sources and are protected by copyright. The Idaho State Library is not responsible for the contents of any linked sites or any link contained within a linked site.

To Subscribe: Visit www.lili.org/scoop and click on To Subscribe. Subscriptions are free!

To Unsubscribe:

1. Paste the URL below into your web browser:
http://www.islscoop.org/qmailer_ysnews/unsubscribe.php3/john@example.com
2. Replace the email address at the end (john@example.com) with your own.
3. Surf to that URL and follow the instructions.

Contact Us: *The Scoop* is a service of the Idaho State Library's Read to Me Program. To contribute or provide suggestions, contact [Peggy McClendon](#) or [Stephanie Bailey-White](#) at (208) 334-2150 or 1-800-458-3271.